



Remarks

I. Claims 1 and 2 Rejection -- 35 USC §102. Claims 1 and 2 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by *Sepp* (3,931,945). In response, independent claim 1 has been amended as described below under Section IV of this Response concerning allowable subject matter so that currently amended independent claim 1 is now allowable together with properly dependent claim 2. Notification to that effect is requested.

II. Claim 7 Rejection -- 35 USC §103. Claim 7 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Sepp* (3,931,945) in view of Case (4,863,119). In response, claim 7 has been amended as described below under Section IV of this Response concerning allowable subject matter so that currently amended independent claim 7 is now allowable together. Notification to that effect is requested.

III. Claim 13 Rejection -- 35 USC §103. Claim 7 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Sepp* (3,931,945) in view of Brownell (2001/0050323). In response, claim 7 has been amended as described below under Section IV of this Response concerning allowable subject matter so that currently amended independent claim 7 is now allowable together. Notification to that effect is requested.

IV. Allowable Subject Matter. The Office Action allows claims 8 and 9, and it identifies claims 4-6 and 14 as allowable if rewritten in independent form, including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

In response, independent claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 4 (there being no intervening claims) and claim 4 has been canceled so that currently amended independent claim 1 is now allowable together with properly dependent claims 2, 5, and 6.

In addition, claim 7 has been rewritten in independent form to include all the limitations of base claim 1 (there being no intervening claims) so that currently amended independent claim 7 is now allowable.

As for the allowable subject matter of claim 14, all the limitations of claim 14 have been added to base claim 13 (there being no intervening claims) and claim 14 has been canceled so that currently amended independent claim 13 is now allowable.

V. Reexamination and Allowance. In view of the foregoing, currently amended independent claims 1, 7, and 13 are now allowable together with previously amended independent claim 8 and properly dependent claims 2, 5, 6, and 9. Notification to that effect is requested. Reexamination and allowance are requested.